

# CONTACTS 接觸

雜誌 *magazine*

ISSUE NO.51



HKC  
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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS





Presenting a Positive Image of Asian Men

**Oriental Guys**  
Issue no. 20

# OG

**HK\$300**

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**Anniversary**  
**Special Edition**

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- \* Our photographers reveal all

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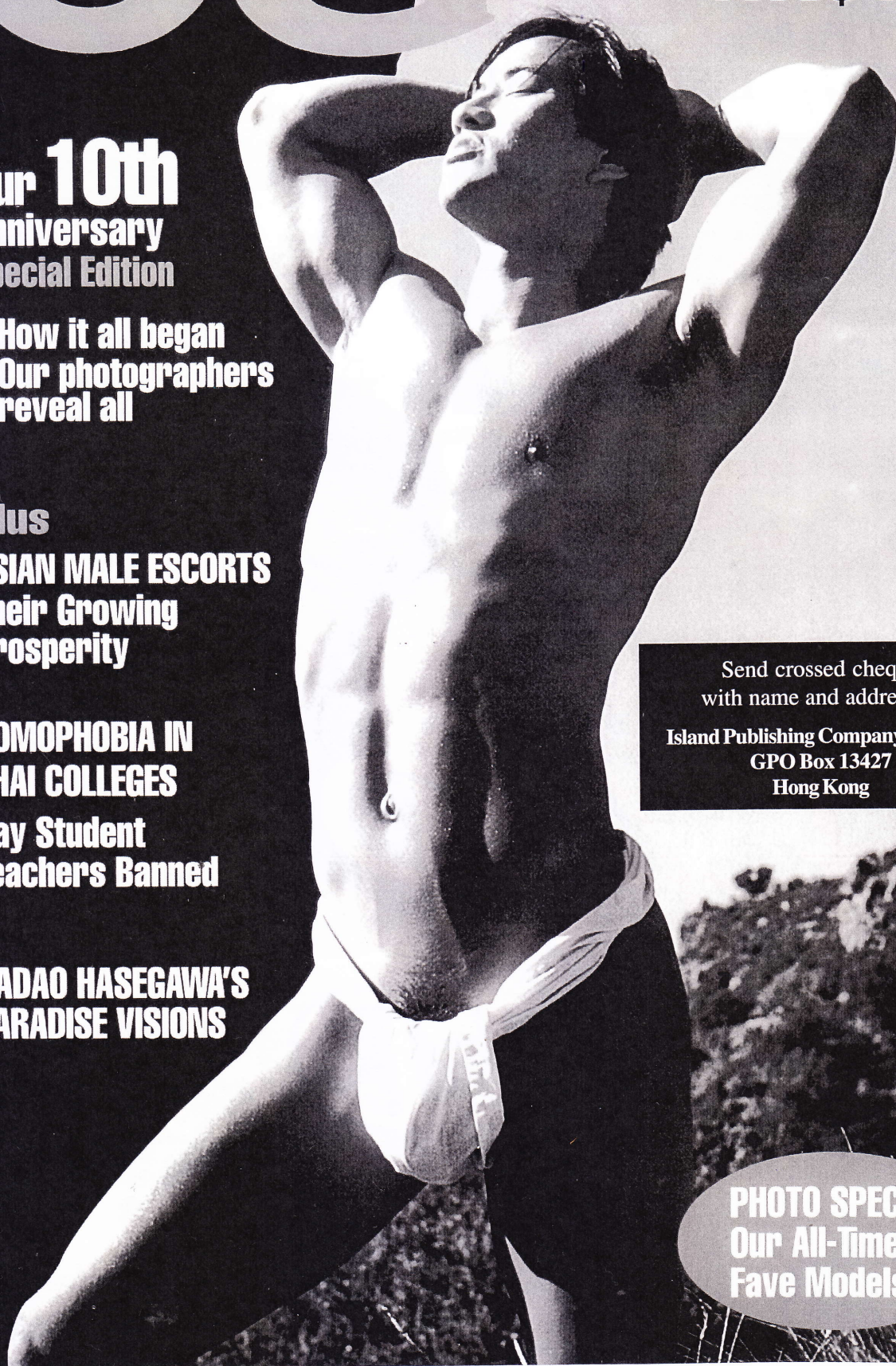
**HOMOPHOBIA IN**  
**THAI COLLEGES**  
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**Teachers Banned**

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**PARADISE VISIONS**

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**W**ell it had to happen. Finally the lid of Gay community has blown off. A recent article in The Sunday Post, probably to the chagrin of many, lambasted Gay people for not having the courage of their convictions.

The article, while being fair and (in our opinion) reflective of the Gay community clearly labelled Gay people in Hong Kong as being hedonistic, when they're not too busy being sybaritic!

That we don't have a sense of community responsibility or even, as the article hinted at, an individual commitment for our own development is a gross indictment—one that has been mentioned in this column many, many times over the past years.

We could have hoped that at least our voluntary organisations and groups might have fared better. But no, it was not to be. Not one of them emerged in anything like a shining light; they actually managed to be shown up as even more inept than ever before.

While it is true that the voluntary groups don't even begin to represent the vast number of Gay people that there are in Hong Kong—a recent survey put the total number of Gay people connected with Gay groups at a maximum of 800—could we not have hoped that the groups (not known for their reticence in claiming to represent Gay interests) would have least responded either in the letters page or by taking (unprecedented) direct action? For that to happen we (the Gay community) would need some fairly visible and out leaders. Sadly there is a dearth of people who could be placed in this category!

Just because the Gay groups are in disarray does not absolve us, as individuals, from responsibility. Each of us should look at what she/he can do to improve the situation for the benefit of us all. Now we know that Hong Kong isn't known for taking care of its' people but we think Gay people can rise above that stereotype.

If we are to be taken seriously we simply must get our act together NOW. The time is long past when we, as individuals, groups or community allow outsiders to dictate how we will be viewed or treated.

We need to reinforce that sexual orientation is a whole identity—and not just what we do in our bedrooms.

Issue 51

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**CONTACTS 接觸**  
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## Front Cover

### Happy Holidays

Photo by David Man

## Page 5

BOOKS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE  
CAP 142

Number: HK - 1997

## Page 8

Chinese  
Families  
A Personal  
Opinion



## Page 12

**PROGAY**

## Regulars

4	Scene Around
6	Global News
10	Club Page
11	Book Review
14	Out On The Net
17	Personals
18	Guide

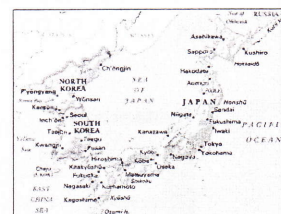
## Page 13



Love is...  
A Lesbian  
Story

## Page 15

Korea



What it's like

## Page 16

Survey

Vote For the Best!



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# Scene Around

# 香港

*By Patrick & Friends*

**J**CQU (Joint College Queer Union) have a great White Christmas Party on the 23rd December from 6.30-11.30 at a hotel in Tsim Sha Tsui. The price including dinner is \$380 for details contact Yvonne, Owen or Calvin 8100 5550. E-mail [jcqu@hkschool.net](mailto:jcqu@hkschool.net). Fax 2667 5197.

**F**reemen are holding their Christmas Party on Friday 26th December from 3-6 p.m. at the Viceroy 2nd Floor Sun Hung Kai Centre, Harbour Road Wanchai. The \$100 entrance fee includes one drink. Gifts will be shared so everybody is asked to bring a gift valued at \$50 or more. A dancing competition, games and a lucky draw are just part of the attractions. Meanwhile on the 27th and 28th December the group are holding an overnight camp at Yuen long Tai Tong. As only 36 people can take part we suggest you call Russell on 91064983 as soon as you can, for more details.

**T**he Long Yang Club is a international voluntary social organisation for Gay Asians and Western people. There are Long Yang Clubs in 20 cities in nine countries (see page 6). The group, named after an ancient Chinese warlord, is now in Hong Kong. They have appointed a co-ordinator,

Bernard Chan, and already have several members. If you're interested in joining them the number to call is 9196 9493 or fax 2900 2061. E-mail [bjchan@hkstar.com](mailto:bjchan@hkstar.com).

#### SATSANGA

主題 : 羽毛球同樂日  
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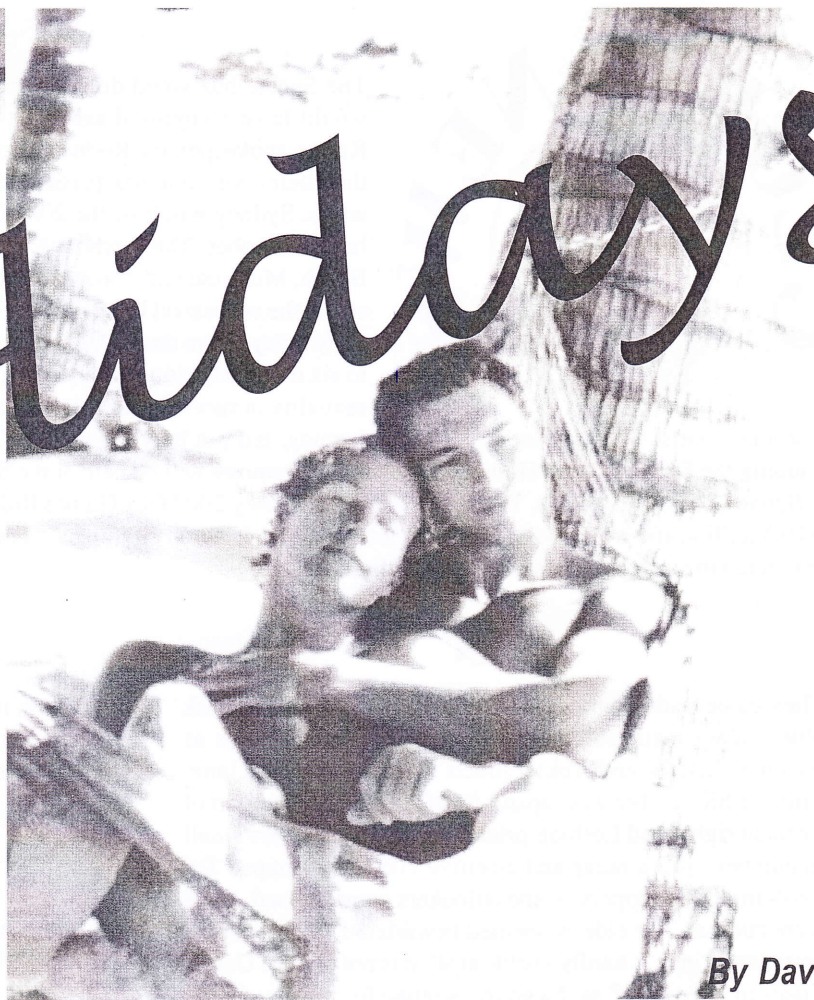
主題:NEWSLETTER

本會於十二月尾出版新一期Newsletter,請寫信到以下地址索取:P.O. Box 266, Texaco Road Post Office, Tsuen Wan, N.T.





# Holidays



By David Man

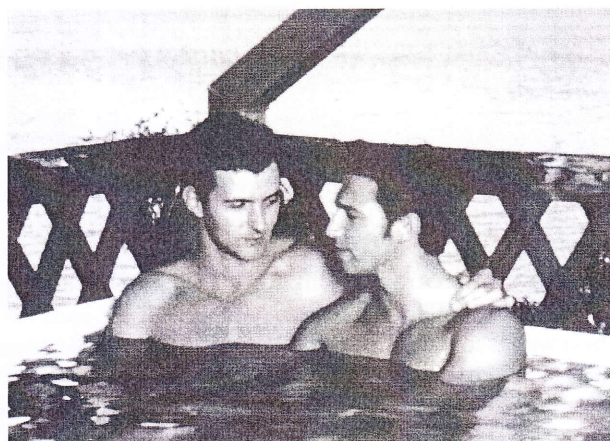
When two gay men or two lesbian women gets ready for a holiday, they walked into a travel agency in Hong Kong and asked for a "one double bed for two, please" hotel booking. I'm sure most travel agents in Hong Kong will react with disbelief. But for many travel agents in countries like the U.S., Canada, European countries, Australia, and New Zealand, making travel arrangements for gays and lesbians are not unusual. In fact, there are numerous travel agencies who cater only to gay and lesbian clients. Gay & Lesbian travelers spend more than straight travelers because most have much higher disposable income than their straight counterparts. For most gay men, they don't have a wife, two kids and a dog to support. And for gay or Lesbian couples, in most cases, they have gay and Lesbian segment, said to be 10% of target segment to numerous multi-national consumer goods companies and the leisure/hospitality industry. These gay and Lesbian travelers represent tremendous spending power to many tourist destinations around the world. The term "Pink Dollar" speaks loud and clear in many marketing campaigns and product promotions.

In order to attract this lucrative gay and Lesbian travelers market, a good number of airlines, tourist associations, hotel chains, and travel agencies around the world all actively participate in organizing special promotions, events, festivals, specifically for the gay and Lesbian traveler. Furthermore, many commercial enterprises are actively promoting their products and sponsoring events in "Gay Pride" events around the world. For instance, the Mardi Gras Festival in Sydney attracts approximately 500,000b gay and Lesbian tourists every year. This month long festival includes events like gay pride marches, street festivals, big parties, film and music festivals, stage performances, sporting events, and community events. The Mardi Gras Festival is openly endorsed and welcomed by the Prime Minister of Australia and the Mayor of Sydney. With 500,000 visitors, you could imagine that the amount of money spent in the city of Sydney is mind boggling.

In the United States, gay and Lesbian travel takes on

an even grander scale. The entire Queen Elizabeth II cruise ship has been chartered by gay and lesbian travel agencies for a once a year round the world cruise. On a more down to earth scale, there are many gay and lesbian tour packages available for singles, couples, or groups to destinations all over the world. If sight-seeing, shopping, and experiencing local culture is your preference, but you don't want to been on the same tour with Mr. And Mrs. Wong, from Taikooshing and their three screaming kids, then you better book yourself on a gay and lesbian only tour group. Or if you prefer to explore the lesbigay scene in New York, London, Tokyo, or Bangkok, but lacks the time and knowledge to find the popular gay and lesbian establishments, then a lesbigay guided tour may be just your cup of tea.

Or maybe you and your significant other just want a quick getaway weekend for hot, passionate, steamy, uncensored and nonstop pleasure, then you better call your friendly neighborhood lesbigay travel agent and ask for that "big, double bed for two, please" vacation. I guarantee you - no raised eyebrows in surprise, but in recognition and envy instead.







## Australia

The Senate has voted down an amendment to the Income Tax Assessment Act that would have recognised same-sex couples. Australian Council for Lesbian and Gay Rights spokesperson Rodney Croome accused senators of hypocrisy, pointing out that their own same-sex partners are recognised for superannuation and travel allowances. Sydney will host the 2002 Gay Games and Cultural Festival it was announced late November. The Harbour City beat bids from the American cities, Dallas, Long Beach, Montreal and Toronto to hold the games in September 2002. Sydney was chosen as the successful bidder at the Federation of Gay Games' annual meeting in Denver early today. More than 10,000 people are expected to participate in 30 official sports, up to six demonstration sports, fringe sports events and a series of lectures on gender and sexuality in sport. Sailing, netball and touch rugby will be Sydney's addition to the list

of official sports, which includes ballroom dancing, ten-pin bowling and golf. Events will take place in many inner city venues including the Sydney Opera House. The opening ceremony will be held at the Showring at Homebush and the closing ceremony at the Sydney Football Stadium. The chairman of the Sydney 2002 Gay Games Bid, Tom Seddon, said the 2002 games have a budget of A\$10.5 million and would cost "a hell of a lot less" than the 2000 Olympics. "The economic impact of the event, most of it in Sydney, is expected to reach in excess of A\$100 million," he said.

## JAPAN

They came with drums and whistles, some dressed in dark blue "salary man" suits, others draped in rainbow flags as they marched through Tokyo streets to the music of k.d.lang. Friday 10th October was Japan's first Gay march in support of Lesbian rights and Lesbian pride. Although they were small in number - just a noisy and assertive 200- they stopped Tokyo's midday shoppers. Some onlookers were amused, some were curious. The elderly seemed bewildered. "The Lesbian community here is hardly visible at all, it is not like the United States or Australia," said a spokeswoman for the march, Ms Maria Miho Hiramatsu. "The problem with Lesbians in Japan is that they are connected with pornography. The image of Lesbians follows men's ideas of what women are which is very different from women's idea of what women are," she said. A prominent member of the Lesbian Mother's Association, Ms Hiramatsu, dressed in gold lame and purple feathers, was accompanied on the march by her two young sons. "I am divorced. I have come out. I have told my friends and my boss even that I am a Lesbian and I have not received any reaction from him. I think this is because he probably doesn't understand what it means," she said. In Japan, the Gay culture is officially ignored. Laws permit homosexual acts between consenting adults over the age of 18, but because of the strict conformist nature of Japanese society, most homosexuals still live in a subterranean world of Gay bars and discreet lifestyles. Lesbians marching today say that discrimination would be far greater in Japan if Gays were open about their sexuality. The marchers' banners carried explicit messages. "It is a mistake to connect Lesbians with pornography," declared one.

## Thailand

The Rajabhat Institute, which operates 36 Thai teacher colleges, has lifted its year-old ban on gay students, "apparently under pressure from foreign ... non-governmental organisations," reported the *Bangkok Post*. But the institute simultaneously proposed a new rule banning "sexually abnormal" people. Rajabhat Council member Wanlop Piyamanatham said sexual abnormalities include copulation with inanimate objects, exposing oneself in public and deriving pleasure from sadomasochistic acts. The earlier gay ban resulted from a misunderstanding of the nature of sexual deviance, Wanlop said. "The institute misunderstood and used the wrong word," he said. "That's why it seems to violate human rights. The best way is to single out sexually abnormal people." To do that, the institute will use a sexual-abnormality screening test that Wanlop claimed was developed by the World Health Organisation. "Sexual deviants are not always sexually abnormal," he said. "Sexual abnormality is worse. They can't be good teachers —they're emotionally abnormal."

## LONG YANG Club's

Now, it's even easier to contact LONG YANG Club's chapter's world-wide. There is an easy-to-remember email format for all chapters on all five continents.

For example, if you wish to write to "LYC-AnyCity", just email: [anycity@longyangclub.com](mailto:anycity@longyangclub.com)

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The full addresses of LYC chapters world-wide is in the Long Yang Club World Directory on the Web. Just point your browser to:

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# GLOBAL GUYS



**BLACK STUDS**



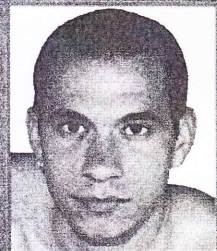
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HINESE FAMILY

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**I**t seems to me that in patrilineal families, there are several key factors at play. The first is that a son is forgiven most things so long as he gets respectably married, and gives birth to sons. This is a fundamental contribution to continuing the family line. In doing so, he honors the fundamental structure of family, which is ultimately (when everything else is said and done) the enduring institution. By extension, an oldest son is under greater pressure to reproduce, as is an only son. Where there are multiple sons, the pressure on any individual son is reduced.

The second factor is that what men do to please themselves is irrelevant, so long as it does not interfere with procreation, and does not shame the family. In other words, romance and personal sexual pleasure are socially uninteresting in family circles so long as they are kept quiet. There is no benefit to family, and only risk. Romantic love inspires people to do irrational things, and therefore it is generally undesirable. Duty, honor, and a devotion to culture and family history serves to stabilize and control individual desire, and therefore sets a good example. It helps to maximize the "asset" value of the family.

The third factor is that families are stuck together by blood, and therefore most transgressions are absorbed. A Gay relationship, if conservative and respectful of family in every other way, can be stabilized into a second-class status.

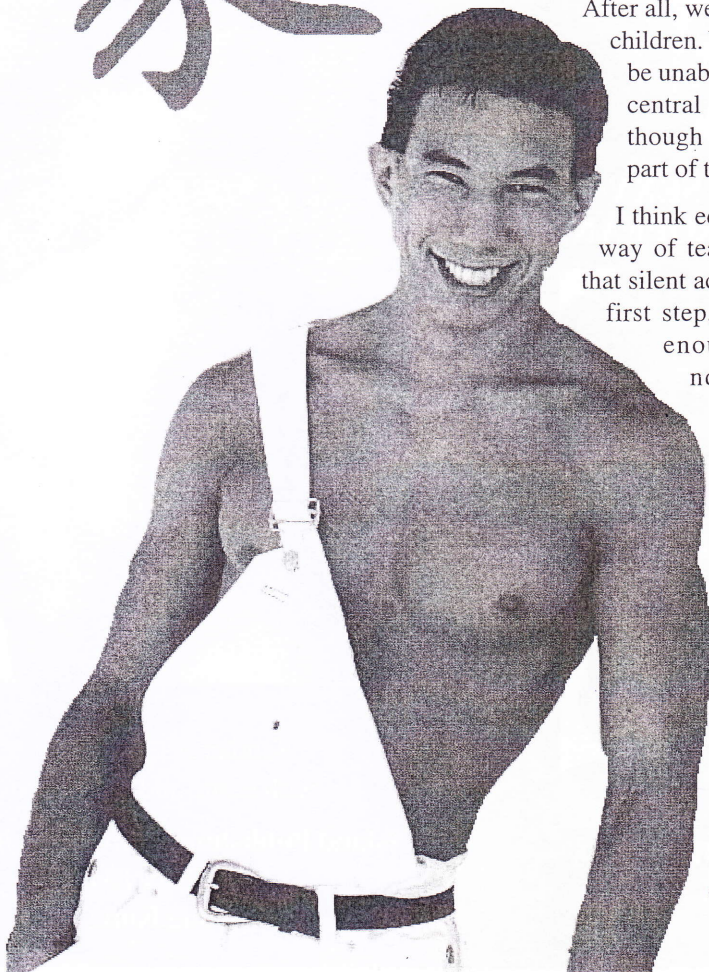
In the case of my ex, who is Chinese, elder brother who had married and produced sons already took the "heat" off him. When he introduced me to his very conservative family, I believe it became quickly apparent to them that our relationship went beyond friendship, and yet they accepted and even welcomed me because I appeared to be socially respectable and profession

ally established. Better me, than another guy who was less so! So long as we were not public in our affection, we were permitted all the private plans we wanted to make, in order to be alone. All understood, but none spoke, even though our togetherness was readily apparent in social settings.

At the heart of this discussion is, I think, the issue of what constitutes a valid relationship worthy of social visibility within the Asian family. If he had insisted in revealing our romantic bond publicly and demanding that it be understood and accepted as "equal" to that between his brother and wife, I think his parents would have been confused, and even hostile. I think they were prepared to love him like a son, and accept me as his partner, but not to consider us equivalent in family terms to the coupling of a man and a woman.

After all, we would produce no children. We would therefore be unable to contribute to a central mission of family, though we could fully be part of the here-and-now.

I think education is the best way of teaching our parents that silent acceptance is a great first step, but that it is not enough. We need understanding and love for who we are, and not despite. Our partners demand parity with our brothers' wives. We can build the deep family bonds that distinguish us as a community into sources of strength, and thereby contribute to "family" in our own way.





# You don't need to be alone

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你是絕對有權利享受美好人生，愛滋基金會永遠在你左右相陪，現在便致電我們的愛滋病熱線。

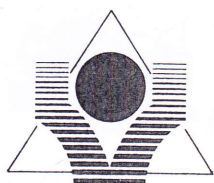
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# 同心合一:1998華人同志交流大會

## 「東宮西宮」籌款 首映禮十二月十八 及十九日舉行

中國大陸首套同志電影「東宮西宮」將為「1998華人同志交流大會」,在香港作籌款首映禮。「東宮西宮」電影主題也正是「1998年華人同志交流大會」希望關注的議題之一。今次導演張元先生誠意捐贈該片予大會作為經費籌募活動,並安排於九七年十二月十八及十九日晚假香港上環文娛中心首映兩場,票價為一百元。大會並藉這次首映禮,特別悼念今年於北京逝世,大陸著名作家及本片原著小說作者王小波先生。

「東宮西宮」在本屆法國康城電影節作為觀摩影片所引起國際間的震撼,比起不少參賽及得獎電影有過之而無不及,不但連續三場傳媒專場全滿,其他場次中遲到的觀眾甚至要席地觀看,其備受注目的原因為該片開門見山講述中國大陸同志情慾故事——一位被公安視為「流氓」的同志,

由於其同性愛傾向,自小受盡社會的排斥,心理發展成被虐狂,然而卻愛上專門懲罰他的公安,更盼望能被他抓住,以獲得心理上的快感……

飾演流氓的司漢(北京廣播學院畢業)及公安的胡軍,於片中赤裸裸的傾心愛慕和娓娓動聽的交流,將兩個對立位置角色之心路歷程表露無遺,極為扣人心弦。無疑,導演張元的功力有如如來神掌,將發生在一房間的劇情,推至萬佛朝宗的戲劇張力,暗示專制社會對人性的扭曲和異化;有血有肉的人變成羊欄中的羊,從被控制中得到滿足及高潮……

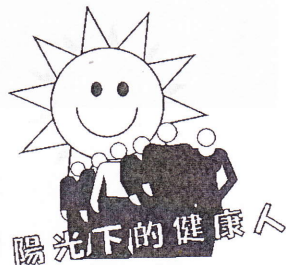
舉辦「1998華人同志交流大會」的主要目的,也在於讓各地華人同志聚首一堂,通過四天的深入討論、分享與反思華人同志在各地關注的課題,互相交流、成長及提升,並藉



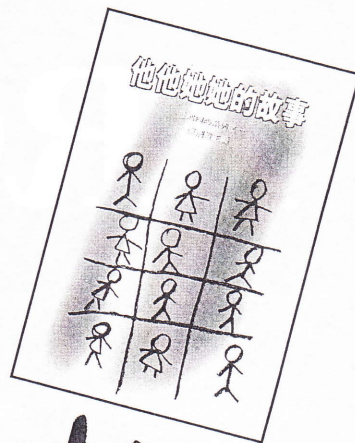
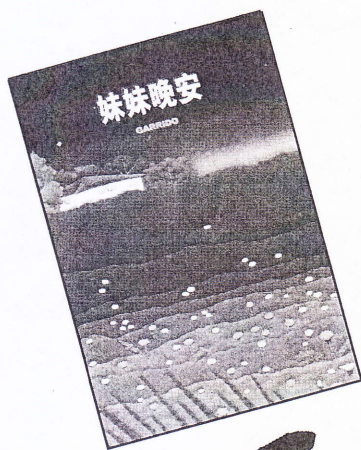
此建立全球華人同志的連繫網絡。

這次大會將邀請不同地區的同志,分別負責討論不同的議題,包括:性別政治、種族主義、關懷愛滋、同志身份認同、同志現身、文化藝術及性意識形態。

大會的長遠目標是「讓每一個人都能成為陽光下的健康人」——不會因為種族、文化、年齡、性別、性取向、階級、語言、或其它差異而互相排斥、恐懼與仇視。讓我們接納、尊重並欣賞彼此的差異,在差異中互相分享、學習,超越「同性愛—異性愛」。







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## 書

## 評

妹妹晚安看加里多的作品不是第一次了.在他的長篇小說中,大家不難發現當小說接近完結時,作者會以一封信,又或配上一段歌詞,將我們帶到小說的高潮.這就是典型的「加里多」風格罷!

作者是一位擁有豐富感情的牙科醫師,數篇作品裏的主角都是醫師,也許作者想透過主角告訴我們些甚麼.無論如何,加里多的筆觸是寫實的.

點題文章「妹妹晚安」不用多作推介吧,作者在後記稱自己是把期待得到旁人尊重,包容的心情投射在文章裏.感情流露細緻之餘,作者尤其著力描寫惹人憐愛的小妹,來牽動各人溫暖的親情.

作者在「秋窯」裏的用字傲骨,是引起很多值

得討論的地方.同性戀者的醜惡面在作者的筆下表露無遺,值得一讚的是作者加上真摯執著的愛形成了強烈的對比.主角以性建立的種種關係令人側目,可是我們又不得不承認這個現實,還是祝福他最後尋到真愛.

「明月圓舞曲」帶來的驚喜是最後作者揭穿自己的身份,可能是滿足了偷窺狂這種原因,所以很快就被作者帶入了想像的意境中.另外,我們亦可想像「小餘」中主角焦急等待的心情,這其實是相當寫實的.

不要忽視那幾篇短篇小說.「斷線」及「另一塊積木」裏的隱喻發人深省.在排列小說的次序中可看到編者的心思,長短篇交錯,看得人相當舒服.最後還想提提「三個代溝」裏以性愛回饋感情的戀愛方式,欣賞的是作者驚世的心願,在開首時已令人留下深刻的印象.





# PROGAY

The Progressive Organisation Of Gays In The Philippines (PROGAY-Philippines)

In September 1993, ProGay-Philippines was born when several progressive Gay student activists gathered as a study group that attempted to develop a concept of Gay Filipinos' roles in the movement for national and social liberation. ProGay started in several Manila schools and built contacts in other parts of the country.

ProGay led the first Gay March in Asia on June 26, 1994, timed with the 25th Stonewall anniversary, to highlight larger social issues.

In August 1994, ProGay Philippines hit the Catholic Church and the Ramos government for their respective corrupt stance on gender, population and development during the United Nations Conference on Population and Development. In January 1997, ProGay joined the public protest against the national ID system. It also led the criticism of the military ban on Gays, and sexual discrimination.

Gay men's understanding of their role in our society suffer the same poverty and exploitation like other sectors of society. This prevents them developing their full human potential.

Individual Gay people are generally refused recruitment and re-employment, promotion, pay raises and benefits; or are given unattractive assignments. Men who are perceived to be homosexual are often treated as outcasts from official social functions. As a community, Gay people are a part of families torn apart by an unjust global economy. Being jobless and landless forces their families to leave for the cities and other countries, to find low-paying menial jobs.

We believe that Gay liberation involves not just Gay men but also all other people of different sexual orientation. Like other oppressed and exploited people, we struggle for social equality. We define the struggle for Gay liberation as a part of the struggle of the Filipino people for national freedom, at the same time, has a distinct concern for the concrete needs of Filipino Gay men.

What are our specific needs and concerns? We advocate the full recognition of economic, social and political rights of all sexual minorities to freedom from all forms of sexual discrimination in the family, the community, the government, church and mass media. We demand respect, acceptance and support from our families. We demand the end to false representation of Gays in the church, mass media and the academe.

What we can do? We believe in arousing, organising and mobilising Gay men in large numbers, as a special interest group, that we can accept the responsibility in working towards the realisation of these goals.

ProGay has promised to lead concerted mass actions that are Gay-related and will work with other national movements on broader issues. They will conduct cam-

paigns among different groups, educate them and get their support for Gay issues.

We will actively relate with peoples' mass organisations in heightening awareness of Gay concerns and continued their spokesperson "we want to strengthen linkages with local Gay groups and international solidarity with Gay movements, feminists and other Gay-friendly groups and individuals via exchanges, visits, communications and conferences".

ProGay-Philippines can provide venues for counselling services, legal services in cases of discrimination in the workplace, and organise social activities.

If you are Gay at work or studying and you know anyone who is Gay and is willing and interested in joining, please contact ProGay-Philippines P.O. Box 1764 QCCPO, 1157 PHILIPPINES

e-mail address: guzman@mnl.sequel.net  
tel. (632) 920-5824

If you're in Manila, you can contact them direct by paging: Pocketbell 125, unit no. 1046769.



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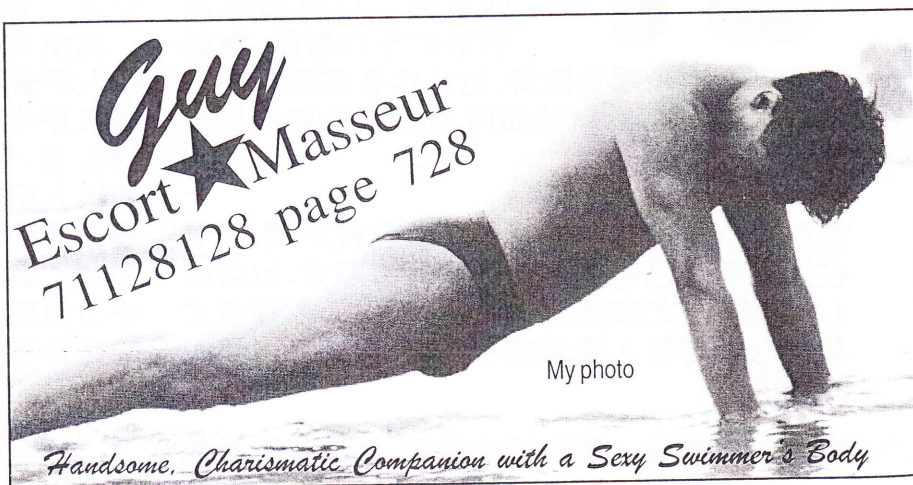
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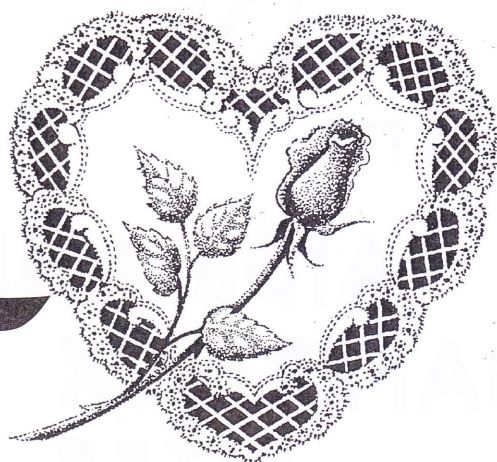
71128128 page 728

My photo

Handsome, Charismatic Companion with a Sexy Swimmer's Body



# Love



**L**ove is the most beautiful thing in the universe. Before this occurred I was empty inside. I had been through misuse, abuse, obsessiveness, even a fatal attraction.

One morning, about 7 am, I got up, had a drink of water, turned the radio on and went back to bed. Just as I was falling asleep, I felt something, a presence. I felt something's here, then I was flipped onto my back, my soul speeding off into the Astral.

I stood there, blinking, looking around. Grey mist everywhere. Astral mist. Then I felt again, something's here. I



then felt something touching my arms, gently, lovingly. Then I saw her. Strong, intelligent, butch, a soul, making love to me. The most beautiful touches light, intense. Feelings to the dizzyest heights.

After a while, I asked, "Are you a woman?" She stopped and looked at me, then we both noticed two other souls in the Astral, looking at us. I asked again, "Are you a woman?" I was getting worried thinking this may be a man when I am a Lesbian so I dived right into this soul

asking, "Titties?" I felt them just as she said, "Yes, titties."

We made love in the Astral, so beautifully, then she brought me back to my body in bed and made love to me physically and spiritually. I could hear the radio, and see this soul and feel the love.

She is now with me forever. I found out she is from two past lives where we have

**we are together forever, on this plane and the next.**

been lovers. We made a promise to each other to be together, in the spirit world. I came back for a spiritual/physical life and have had "hell". She came to rejoin with me through love, help me have a physical life and we are together forever, on this plane and the next.

My name is Lee, hers Amanda, she protects me and loves me, helps me all the time. She spins my potplants around, crackles my basket, even opens doors for me. I am blessed and we are the happiest "Lesbians" in the universe.

# is







# Out On + The Net

By Spode

Spode@sqzm14.ust.hk

## AIDS AND SAFER-SEX WEB SITES

World AIDS Day has come and gone. In the past year or two, the number of Hong Kong related web sites devoted to AIDS information and services has increased dramatically.

**HONG KONG**—The most impressive newcomer to the scene is the Hong Kong AIDS Information Network ( <http://www.csu.med.cuhk.edu.hk/hkaids/> ) from the Community Research Programme on AIDS of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. This is an amazingly well-done site, and is truly comprehensive in its coverage of everything available on the net about AIDS in Hong Kong, from organizational contacts to very detailed information for every organization listed.

I especially appreciated their table of AIDS Activities in Hong Kong ( <http://www.csu.med.cuhk.edu.hk/hkaids/activity.htm> ). There is even a form for adding your organization's events online. It's wonderful to see a group able to put this much effort in.

On the down side, they made their home page a bit overly complicated and graphics intensive. If you have Java enabled on your browser, be careful not to ignore the scrolling information at the bottom of their home page - every time it scrolls to a new topic, it links to a different page. You may have to wait for it to scroll around again before you can find the page you want.

Another excellent page is Spiderwoman's Hong Kong AIDS Information ( <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/5167/aidshome.html> ). Here you will find a well-organized set of links to both local and international resources.

The Gay Hong Kong site also has a good

set of HK-related AIDS links at <http://sqzm14.ust.hk/hkgay/hkgay-aids.html>

**WORLD**—The most complete and up-to-date site for AIDS information of all kinds is the Critical Path AIDS Project ( <http://www.critpath.org/> ). This site is focused, well-organized, and very deep. In addition to the best set of links I found, Critical Path provides content - regularly updated information on everything from government statistics to experimental treatment regimens. Go there.

Aegis (the AIDS Education Global Information System - <http://www.aegis.com/> ) bills itself as "the largest HIV/AIDS database in the world," and they are. Well over 300,000 documents are included, along with a very effective search engine - just typing in 'hong kong' I found 191 documents. And the site looks good, too! Aegis is even preparing to implement a 'channel' for the automatic delivery of the latest news and information direct to your desktop. I am embarrassed that I did not know about Aegis until I sat down to re-search this month's column.

**SAFERSEX**—For specifically safer sex information, start at <http://sqzm14.ust.hk/safe.html> and explore from there. The best site ANYWHERE on the web is the Safer Sex page maintained by the University of California ( <http://www.safersex.org/> ). If you ignore everything else, make a point to explore this site.

One thing not yet available on the net is information from the Hong Kong Consumer Council. They periodically publish a rating guide for condoms available in Hong Kong, and have also been known to issue warnings for defective products (as happened just a few months ago). If

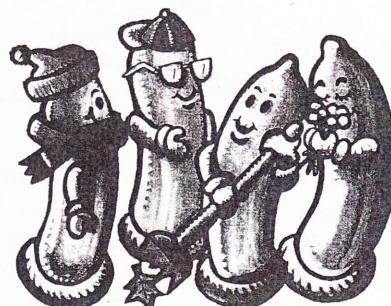
anyone sees any of their information online, please let me know so I can add it to the Gay Hong Kong pages.

Don't forget to explore the Yahoo! directory ( <http://www.yahoo.com/> ) for pointers to hundreds of additional web sites. Play safe, and I'll see you next month.

previous columns can be read at  
<http://sqzm14.ust.hk/out-on-the-net/>

# SAFE SEX

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# LIFE IN SOUTH KOREA



Until very recently any mention of sex, in Korean society, was taboo. The first Korean college textbook on human sexuality was only published in 1990, and there is still little information available about sexuality in Korea.

The government recently passed a bill, legislating the length of women's skirts and banning fashions that bare the midriff, ostensibly to curb the rising tide of sexual violence against women! The logic seems to be if they look attractive, attacks against them are only natural.

Koreans acknowledge a few Gays and Lesbians in their historical records, mostly kings or princesses with bad reputations. A series of articles on homosexuality began emerging in the mid-1990's, some of which made the case for recognition of rights and freedoms regardless of sexual orientation, drawing the connections between homophobia and other forms of prejudice. There were also a lot of backlash articles, mainly from Christian sources.

But for all this, being Gay or Lesbian in Korea is in some ways easier than in the West. In part, because the possibility of homosexuality is denied by most people, there is an enormous tolerance for homosocial touching. Same-sex friends will hold hands and rub each other in the streets without raising an eyebrow, while mixed-sex couples doing the same will attract attention. Men insist that there is nothing sexual about brushing a male friend's buttocks or genitals when part

ing ways. And since same-sex roommates before marriage are the norm, life as a couple for young Gays and Lesbians is possible. It's a short-lived freedom though, as many families compel their children to marry after a certain age. In fact, the two main periods of crisis for Gays and Lesbians are the initial coming-out and their, almost, forced marriage by their parents.

Homosexuals in Korea have no established overtly discriminatory laws to against which to struggle. There are no sodomy laws prohibiting oral or anal intercourse, largely because these act have traditionally been considered utterly unmentionable in any public forum or document.

Korea witnessed its first Lesbian commitment ceremony on November 27, 1995. It is just a matter of time before the courts are faced with demands for the legal recognition of Gay marriages, for the adoption of children by Gay couples, or for divorces and child custody battles involving issues of sexual orientation, and a pattern of repressive or discriminatory rulings may then emerge.

Chin-gu-sa-i (meaning Between Friends) is a group organised for Gay male only they have almost 120 members. Lesbians formed a group, founded by only 7 members, called Ki-ri-ki-ri (meaning To-

getherness) The group started small but the numbers quickly swelled to 80 members. They now claim over a hundred members.

The first Gay campus organisation emerged at Yonsei University, a graduate student in sociology came out publicly as Gay student, and placed an ad for a Gay students' association in the campus newspaper in March 1995. Several students joined to form "Come Together" the first Korean campus association for Gay college students.

A bisexual student at Seoul National University tried to publish a similar ad in his own campus newspaper, but was refused. So he posted the campus with flyers instead, founding Ma-Um 001 (meaning "Heart 001"), a group committed to the rights of oppressed sexual minorities.

Enormous controversy surrounded the founding of both of these campus groups, but when a third campus group "People with People" was established at the University of Kora in September 1995, there was comparatively little noise. there are now five Gay student organisations at Korean universities.



# 1st

*Annual  
Gay Awards  
1997-98*

**C**an you spare a few moments? We want know what are the high-spots of Gay life *in Hong Kong*. Please help by filling in the form with your choice-please only one nominantion in each category!

## CATEGORIES

(1) Person who has done most for the Gay community \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Best Gay group \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Most visible Gay person \_\_\_\_\_

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(8) Best cruisest gym \_\_\_\_\_

(9) Best Gay bar \_\_\_\_\_

(10) Best Gay disco \_\_\_\_\_

**L**et us have the form (only one per person please!) by Friday 28th November. Winners will be published in Contacts Magazine.

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步驟（三）：將你的信、郵票及寫了姓名及地址的字條一起放入一個信封內，然後寄 Contacts Magazine G.P.O. Box 13427 Hong Kong.

Adverts for inclusion in the next issue should reach us by 5th January 98. Fill in the form on page 26 or fax us on 2915-5896.

## Men

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Looking for close friendship or more. Don't drink or smoke. Send photo will answer all. Box 252

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Japanese 28, Professional, 179cm, 66kgs, cute, good looking, swimmer's body, interested in Chinese/Americans 25-35, professional, good-looking, nice body. Also looking for American English tutor (under 35). Let's meet and have fun. Send photo/phone. Box 257

Chinese 28, 180cm, 74kg, cute with sense of humour, enjoys swimming, yoga, travelling. Seeks 30-45 professional, any nationality, for friendship or relationship. Box 259

## WOMEN

22 years-old Lesbian from Russia wants to meet and correspond with older women. I am a fashion designer, 164 tall weight 48 kilos. I have blue eyes and I am a brunette. please write with photo Oxana Ukraine 310055, Kharkov 8506 for Oksana.

## PEN PALS

London Boy (24), student, looking for Penfriends. My hobbies: Art (oil painting), reading, movies, swimming and skiing. 12 Hungerford Road, London N7 9 LX, UK.

I am 25, 5'10" tall, 170lbs. I am very athletic and love sex and have an insatiable sex appetite for Asians. Please write to: William Foster, Box 2222, Route 2, Mineral Point, Missouri 63660, USA

Need a friend? Educated, responsible & sensitive GWM 30 years old in search of person of high values & views. Looks/age not as important as the ability to share ones heart. Rick Gallo, PO Box 359-23128, Lovelock, NV. 89419, USA. (Good humor a must).

27 years old, good looking, cuban Gay man. Seeks friends world-wide write to: Carlos Alberto Triana Cruz, Apartado Postal #744, Santa Clara 1, Villa Clara, CP 50100, Cuba



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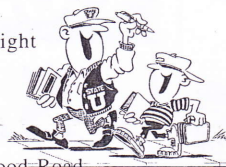
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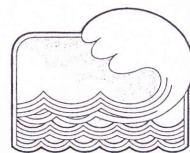
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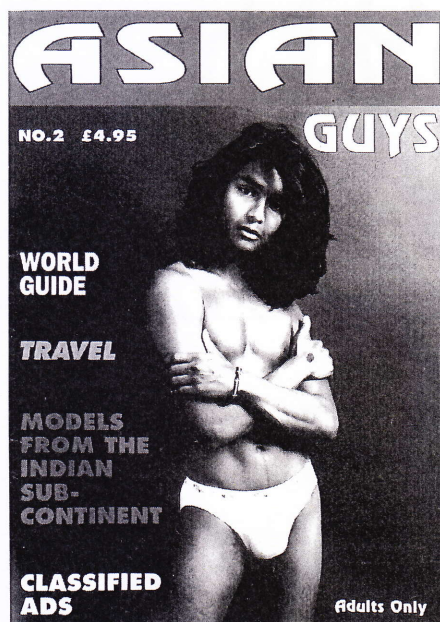
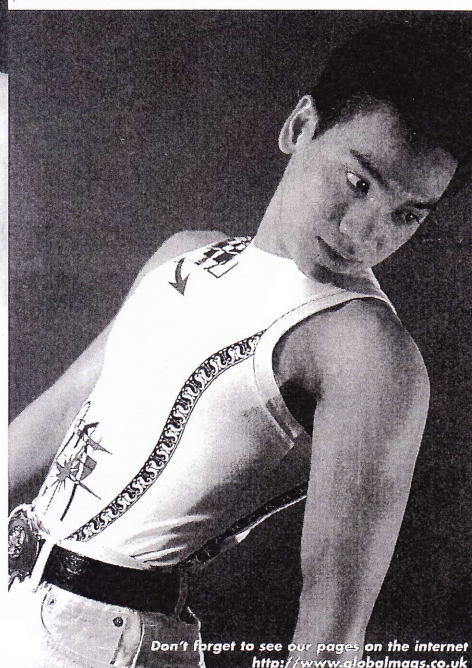




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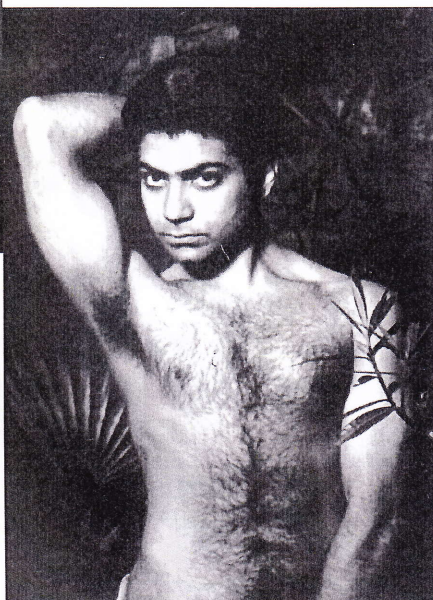


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